

**SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
**2013 - 2014**

**Rick Jeffares of the 17<sup>th</sup>** - Chairman  
1300 Keys Ferry Ct.  
McDonough, GA 30253

**John D. Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>** - Vice-Chairman  
P.O. Box 891  
Tifton, GA 31793

**Gloria S. Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>** - Secretary  
6241 Southland Trace  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

**Hardie Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
P.O. Box 6389  
Augusta, GA 30916

**Bill Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>**  
P.O. Box 528  
Appling, GA 30802

**William T. Ligon, Jr. of the 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
158 Scranton Connector  
Brunswick, GA 31525

**Joshua McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>**  
P.O. Box 2565  
Columbus, GA 31902

**Butch Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>**  
2420 Browns Bridge Rd.  
Gainesville, GA 30504

**Jesse Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
642 Liberty St.  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

**Curt Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>**  
6320 Glenbrook Drive  
Tucker, GA 30084

**SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE**  
**RULES**  
**2013-2014 Term**

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The chairperson shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The chairperson shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the chairperson.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the chairperson.
5. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he or she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
6. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire. Any majority or minority report pertaining to Committee proceedings in an ethics investigation under these Committee rules shall be considered as part of the record in such proceedings.
  - 6.1. (a)(1) Proceedings on formal complaints brought by a Senator or staff member pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 shall be governed by such Senate rule and the rules of this Committee.
  - (2) Proceedings on formal complaints brought pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 shall be governed by Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. and the rules of this Committee.
  - (b)(1) The chairperson of the Committee shall appoint a subcommittee consisting of three members of the Committee and delegate thereto the authority and duty to conduct an investigation of any formal complaint received by the Committee pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 or O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91.
  - (2) Upon completing such an investigation, the subcommittee shall submit a report of its findings to the full Committee.
  - (c) Upon the adoption by the Committee of a report of the findings of an investigatory subcommittee, the Committee shall then determine whether it has jurisdiction over the complaint. If the Committee determines that it has jurisdiction, then:
    - (1) In the case of a complaint within the meaning of Senate Rule 1-4.10, the Committee shall determine whether substantial cause exists that a violation occurred; or

(2) In the case of a complaint within the meaning of O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91, the Committee shall determine whether reasonable grounds exist to believe that improper conduct or sexual harassment has occurred.

(d)(1) All complaints within the meaning of Senate Rule 1-4.10 and other records related thereto in the possession of the Committee or a subcommittee thereof shall remain confidential unless and until the full Committee, after an investigation, has determined that substantial cause exists that a violation occurred. If the Committee determines that such substantial cause does not exist or that the Committee has no jurisdiction over the complaint, then the complaint shall be dismissed and, along with other records related thereto, shall remain confidential.

(2) All complaints within the meaning of O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 and other records related thereto in the possession of the Committee or a subcommittee thereof shall remain confidential unless and until the full Committee, after an investigation, has determined that reasonable grounds exist to believe that improper conduct or sexual harassment has occurred. If the Committee determines that such reasonable grounds do not exist or that the Committee has no jurisdiction over the complaint, then the complaint shall be dismissed and, along with other records related thereto, shall remain confidential.

(e) Any settlement of, Committee evidentiary hearing on, or rendering of judgment on a complaint brought pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 or O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 shall be subject to Senate Rule 1-4.10(e) and (f).

(f)(1) Any penalty imposed pursuant to judgment on a complaint brought pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 shall be subject to Senate Rule 1-4.10(g).

(2) Any penalty imposed pursuant to judgment on a complaint brought pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 shall be the same as provided by Senate Rule 1-4.10(g).

7. (a) There shall be an Executive Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Ethics. The Executive Subcommittee shall consist of the three officers of the Senate Committee on Ethics (i.e., the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, and the secretary of the Senate Committee on Ethics), except that if there is no Senator from the minority party among the three officers of the Senate Committee on Ethics, then the Executive Subcommittee shall consist of the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Senate Committee on Ethics and a Senator from the minority party appointed to the Executive Subcommittee by the chairperson.

(b) The Executive Subcommittee shall act as a screening panel for communication received by the Committee that:

(1) Allege violations of Section 1, Part 4 of the Rules of the Senate or otherwise indicate that an investigation by the Senate Committee on Ethics may be warranted; and

(2) Are not formal complaints by a Senator or staff member.

(c) The screening function of the Executive Subcommittee is established in view of the facts that:

(1) The Senate Committee on Ethics is not required to take any action with respect to such a communication that is not a formal complaint; but

(2) The Senate Committee on Ethics is authorized to initiate an investigation on its own initiative and such a communication may be of such a nature as to indicate a need for such an investigation.

(d) Upon receipt of a communication described in subsection (b) of this rule, if the communication is in writing and signed, the chairperson may, but shall not be required to, convene the Executive Subcommittee to consider the matter.

(e) All matters determined by the Executive Subcommittee to be complaints within the meaning of Senate Rule 1-4.10 shall remain confidential unless and until the Committee has determined that substantial cause exists that a violation occurred. If the Committee determines that such substantial cause does not exist, the complaint shall be dismissed and remain confidential.

(f) If the Executive Subcommittee determines that the communication described in subsection (b) of this rule does not meet the standards for a complaint under Senate Rule 1-4.10, the Executive Subcommittee shall treat the communication as confidential. The Executive Subcommittee may refer the communication to the Committee for the Committee to take action under Rule 7 (c) (2) of the Senate Ethics Committee Rules. Such referral shall be confidential until and unless disclosure is required by these Rules or the Rules of the Senate.

(g) If the Executive Subcommittee determines that there is a substantial probability that the matter merits the opening of an investigation by the full Committee, that determination shall be communicated to the full Committee. Such communication from the Executive Subcommittee to the Committee shall be confidential. If the Executive Subcommittee determines that there is no substantial probability that the matter merits the opening of an investigation by the full Committee, then no report of such determination to the full Committee shall be required and the matter shall stand disposed of and the matter shall remain confidential subject to the Rules of the Senate.

(h) Nothing in this Rule shall operate to preclude or bar any subsequent formal complaint or any subsequent Committee investigation in any case; and no determination by the Executive Subcommittee shall be binding on the full Committee.

8. Requests made pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 for the opinion or advice of the Ethics Committee and any opinions or advice of the Ethics Committee and any opinions or advice given shall be confidential.

8.1. Any Senate staff or counsel selected by the Ethics Committee, the Executive Subcommittee, an investigatory subcommittee, or the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee to investigate complaints made pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 or O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 or investigating or responding to any matters deemed confidential by Senate Rules or the Senate Ethics Committee Rules shall maintain at all times the confidentiality of the matter.

8.2. (a) Upon the final disposition of any ethics matter under these Committee rules, whether by dismissal, settlement, judgment, or otherwise, the Committee shall deposit all records relating to such proceedings that are in its possession or

in the possession of a subcommittee with the Office of Legislative Counsel for physical custody thereof until such time as the records are withdrawn in accordance with subsection (b) of this rule. Any such records that are required to be kept confidential shall be sealed by the Committee prior to such deposit.

(b)(1) The Committee, an investigatory subcommittee, or the Executive Subcommittee, for purposes of a subsequent investigation against the same member based on new evidence, and subject to the confidentiality provisions of these Committee rules, may withdraw and unseal records of a related prior complaint or investigation.

(2) The Committee shall withdraw and promptly cause to be destroyed its records relating to ethics proceedings upon:

(A) The expiration of six years following the date the formal complaint was filed or the Executive Subcommittee was convened in the matter, whichever is applicable; or

(B) The expiration of one year following the date of termination or interruption of the accused member's service in the Senate by death, resignation, removal from office, failure to be reelected, or whichever first occurs.

9. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
10. Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate in effect at the time shall govern.

The **Senate Ethics Committee** met on February 4, 2013 at 3:30 pm in Room 125 Capitol.

Members present:

Jeffares of the 17<sup>th</sup> - Chairman  
Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup> - Vice-Chairman  
Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> - Secretary  
Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>  
Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>

Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup> arrived at the meeting around 3:45 pm

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

The Chairman distributed a copy of the Senate Ethics Rules for 2013-2014 to all the members of the committee.

Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup> made the motion “to adopt the Ethics Committee Rules,” seconded by McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.

The Chairman asked for the following bills to be heard:

**SB 9 (Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>) To provide for the non-partisan election of solicitors-general**

Senator Carter presented the bill to the committee and a general discussion was held about the nature of non-partisan elections for local offices in Georgia.

After multiple questions about whether the respective offices had been contacted about their views on the type of elections for these offices, Senator Carter requested to postpone the hearing of these bills until additional information could be gathered.

**SB 9 – Postponed.**

**SB 54 (Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>) To provide for the non-partisan election of coroners**

**SB 54 – Postponed.**

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**SB 55** (Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>) To provide for the non-partisan election of district attorneys, solicitors-general, sheriffs, coroners, tax commissioners, tax receivers, tax collectors, clerks of the superior court, and county commissioners

**SB 55** – Postponed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon Wilder, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

The **Senate Ethics Committee** met on February 11, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 Capitol.

Members Present:

Jeffares of the 17<sup>th</sup> - Chairman  
Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup> - Vice-Chairman  
Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> - Secretary  
Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>  
McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>  
Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>

Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> and McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup> arrived late to the meeting.  
Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> was absent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

The Chairman asked for the following bills to be heard:

**SB 102 (Senator Ginn, 47<sup>th</sup>): To require the notation of illegibility to vote on driver's licenses**

Senator Ginn began his testimony to explain why the bill is necessary, and then continued to ask for a postponement of further discussion, in order to obtain more information about the budgetary needs of the bill.

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion "to postpone," seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was unanimous.

**SB 102 – Postponed.**

**SB 95 (Senator Millar, 40<sup>th</sup>): To provide that, in counties that utilize a chief executive officer/county commission form of government, all elections for the chief executive officer shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis**

Senator Millar first introduced an amendment to the bill. He then repeatedly clarified that this bill would only apply to DeKalb County. Many questions were asked about instituting the same changes through local legislation, about lower voter turnout, and about the conflict between the county commissioner and the chief executive officer. Questions also arose about whether or not the change to nonpartisan elections stems from the desire to dilute the power being gained by minority parties. Senator Millar was then advised to hold the bill until he could collect more information and details about the effects of this bill on other counties.



Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “to postpone,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was unanimous.

**SB 95 – Postponed.**

**SB 4 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of the clerk of superior court**

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “Do pass,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was 4 yeas: Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 4 nays: Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman voted yea to break the tie. The final vote count was 5 yeas to 4 nays.

**SB 4 – Do Pass.**

**SB 5 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of the office of district attorney**

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “Do pass,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was 4 yeas: Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 4 nays: Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman voted yea to break the tie. The final vote count was 5 yeas to 4 nays.

**SB 5 – Do Pass.**

**SB 6 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of the office of the sheriff**

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “Do pass,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was 4 yeas: Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 4 nays: Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman voted yea to break the tie. The final vote count was 5 yeas to 4 nays.

**SB 6 – Do Pass.**

**SB 7 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of the office of the county commissioner**

Senator Carter asked for this bill to be withdrawn.

**SB 7 – Withdrawn by Author**

**SB 8 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of the tax commissioner, tax receiver, and tax collector**

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “Do pass,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was 5 yeas: Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3 nays: Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>. The final vote count was 5 yeas to 3 nays.

**SB 8 – Do Pass.**

**SB 9 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of solicitors-general**

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “Do pass,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was 4 yeas: Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 4 nays: Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman voted yea to break the tie. The final vote count was 5 yeas to 4 nays.

**SB 9 – Do Pass.**

**SB 54 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of coroners**

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “Do pass,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was 7 yeas: Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 1 nay: Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>. The final vote count was 7 yeas to 1 nay.

**SB 54 – Do Pass.**

**SB 55 (Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>): To provide for the nonpartisan election of district attorneys, solicitors-general, sheriffs, coroners, tax commissioners, tax receivers, tax collectors, clerks of superior court, and county commissioners**

Senator Carter asked that SB 55 be held until tax commissioners could be removed from the change.

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “to postpone,” seconded by Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The vote was unanimous.

**SB 55 – Postponed.**

Senator Carter began discussion on SB 4, SB 5, SB 6, SB 8, SB 9, and SB 54, all together. Carter explained that qualified candidates were no longer running due to party affiliations, and that nonpartisan election would force candidates to reach across party lines and prove their qualifications. Carter emphasized, that this bill does not require that these elections be changed, but that it simply gives each county the option to change their elections, if they so wish, through their local legislation.

The Chairman then opened the floor up to all those with testimony.

Chuck Spahos, representing The Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia, spoke to state that prosecutors are in favor of a change to nonpartisan elections. Prosecutors share in the feeling that they simply implement the policy, and are more similar to law enforcement officials.

David Curry, the Henry County Tax Commissioner, spoke in favor of SB 55 and SB 8. Tax commissioners as a group are in favor of the change to nonpartisan elections. Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> questioned Mr. Curry about the matter.

Howard Sills and Scott Berry from the Georgia Sheriff's Association spoke in favor of SB 6. Sheriffs are in favor of nonpartisan elections because they do not set the policy, but instead implement it.

Kelli Persons of the League of Women Voters of Georgia spoke on SB 102, SB 6, and SB 55.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon Wilder, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

The **Senate Ethics Committee** met on February 26, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 CLOB.

Members Present:

Jeffares of the 17<sup>th</sup> - Chairman  
Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup> - Vice-Chairman  
Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> - Secretary  
Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Ligon, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>

Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup> arrived late to the meeting.  
Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup> were absent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The Chairman asked for the following bill to be heard:

**SB 95 (Senator Millar, 40<sup>th</sup>): To provide that, in counties that utilize a chief executive officer/county commission form of government, all elections for the chief executive officer shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis**

Senator Millar began by clarifying that this bill only applies to DeKalb County. Millar also explained that with this bill approximately 30% more people would run for the position. Many questions were asked about instituting the same changes through local legislation, about lower voter turnout, and about the conflict between the county commissioner and the chief executive officer. Questions also arose about changing the form of government in DeKalb all together.

The Chairman then opened the floor up to all those with testimony.

Commissioner Lee May, the Chair of the DeKalb Body of Commissioners, spoke in opposition to the Senate bill. He did agree that the form of government in the county should change, citing many conflicts that occur between the county commissioners and the chief executive officer. However, he did not feel now would be the time to make that change, nor that changing the elections to nonpartisan would solve any problem. In fact, Commissioner May argued that having nonpartisan elections for the chief executive officer would make that position even more different than the partisan-elected commissioners. If the change were to be made, the Commissioner stated that the change should be enacted through local legislation, so that the people of DeKalb County could vote on the matter for themselves.

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**February 26, 2013**

Senators Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>, and Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> engaged Commissioner May with some questions about the differences between the chief executive officer and the commissioners.

Senator Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup> made the motion “Do Pass as Amended,” seconded by Senator Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The vote was 4 yeas: Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>; and 2 nays: Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> and Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The final vote count was 4 yeas to 2 nays.

**SB 95 – Do Pass as Amended.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon Wilder, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

The **Senate Ethics Committee** met on March 12, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 CLOB.

Members Present:

Jeffares of the 17<sup>th</sup> - Chairman  
Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> - Secretary  
Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>

Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> arrived late to the meeting.

Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 24<sup>th</sup>, and Miller of the 49<sup>th</sup> were absent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Chairman asked for the following bill to be heard:

**HB 87 (Rep. Hightower, 68<sup>th</sup>): To authorize the use of the boundaries of a gated community as the boundaries of a precinct; to require detailed maps and certain other information to be maintained; to require that such communities be open to the public on election days**

The Chairman notified the committee that this bill was asked to be postponed by the author.

**HB 87 – Postponed.**

**HB 310 (Rep. Wilkinson, 52<sup>nd</sup>): Relating to ethics in government, so as to revise definitions; to provide for the method of filing certain disclosure reports; to provide for the method of notifying candidates of late fees due; to eliminate the grace period on certain reports; to provide for the notice of dissolution of a campaign or committee**

Representative Wilkinson stated that the Commission had requested that the technical changes addressed in HB 310 be made.

Holly LaBerge, the executive director of The Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (formerly known as the State Ethics Commission) also spoke with Representative Wilkinson about the changes they were asking for.

Senator Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Senator McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup> questioned both Ms. LaBerge and Representative Wilkinson about the language in the bill referencing the use of campaign funds for attorney fees.

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**March 12, 2013**

Representative Wilkinson explained language about the substitute and the changes that need to be made.

McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup> made the motion “Do Pass by Substitute,” seconded by Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was unanimous.

**HB 310 – Do Pass by Substitute**

**HB 139 (Rep. Hamilton, 24<sup>th</sup>): Qualification requirements for Sheriff; revises the process for candidates for sheriff**

Representative Hamilton explained that this bill is going to clean up existing legislation and prevent further problems with deadlines for potential Sheriffs. He also assured the committee members that this bill is in line with what the Sheriffs' Association wants.

Representative Hamilton explained language about the substitute and the changes that need to be made.

Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> made the motion “Do Pass by Substitute,” seconded by McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>. The vote was unanimous.

**HB 139 – Do Pass by Substitute**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon Wilder, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

The **Senate Ethics Committee** met on March 22, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 125 Capitol.

Members present:

Jeffares of the 17<sup>th</sup> - Chairman  
Crosby of the 13<sup>th</sup> - Vice-Chairman  
Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> - Secretary  
Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>

Absent: Senator Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Miller, 49<sup>th</sup>

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

The following legislation was presented to the committee:

**HB 87 (Rep. Hightower, 68<sup>th</sup>): To authorize the use of the boundaries of the gated community as the boundaries of a precinct; to require detailed maps and certain other information to be maintained; to require that such communities be open to the public on election days**

Representative Hightower of the 68<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill. He explained the genesis of the legislation since a gated community in his district had requested the bill.

Senator Millar of the 40<sup>th</sup> presented a Substitute to the committee (LC 28 6790S) dealing with DeKalb County CEO. Motion made by McKoon of the 29<sup>th</sup> **HB 87 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**, seconded by Ligon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Motion carried. The vote was 4-3. Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>, Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> and Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup> voted NO on the Substitute.

Phyllis Mitchell, DeKalb County, spoke in opposition to the bill with the Millar substitute. She expressed a strong desire to the committee members to let DeKalb County handle this through local legislation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon Wilder, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>, Secretary



April 18, 2013

Mr. Bob Ewing  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol Room 353  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Senate Ethics Committee is hereby returning the following Senate and House Bills and Resolutions:

[SB 7](#) \*withdrawn by Author

[SB 36](#)

[SB 44](#)

[SB 45](#)

[SB 48](#)

[SB 49](#)

[SB 50](#)

[SB 55](#)

[SB 102](#)

[SB 175](#)

[SB 184](#)

[SR 7](#)

[SR 13](#)

Respectfully,

/s/ Sharon Wilder  
Recording Secretary  
Senate Ethics Committee